



CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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Dear Parish Family,

July 3, 2011

Happy Independence Day! As we celebrate with fireworks, camping, travel, picnics, and family gatherings - let's not forget to thank God for the many favors He has shown our country; as well as our families; and to us as individuals.

Let us also remember to pray for our government leaders, and those men and women serving in the military. Which reminds me - if you have a relative who is serving in the military, please call the parish office and let us know. We will be putting together a prayer list of those in service to our country.

We have reached the end of our 2011 Catholic Services Appeal. It's still not too late. Please stop by the parish offices to get a pledge card. It's not so much the amount you give; but that provide support through prayers and return the card.

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The Feast of the Precious Blood was established by Pope Pius IX in 1849, and is usually celebrated on July 1st. The Precious Blood, like the Sacred Heart of Jesus, has long been venerated for its role in our redemption.

The Pope's prayer intentions for the month of July are as follows: The general intention is that Christ may ease the physical and spiritual sufferings of those who are sick with AIDS, especially in the poorest countries; and the missionary intention is that religious women in mission territories may be witnesses of the joy of the Gospel and living signs of the love of Christ.

Don't take a vacation from God during summer vacation! Please keep praying and attending Mass on weekends. You can find Mass times all over the world at <http://www.masstimes.org> on the web. Keep praying for each other!

Fr. David

Sacred Signs and Symbols

The Burning of Incense

"And I saw an angel come and stand before the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, and the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the saints ascended up before God from the hand of the angel." So writes Saint John in the mysterious book of the Apocalypse.

The offering of an incense is a generous and beautiful rite. The bright grains of incense are laid upon the red-hot charcoal, the censer is swung, and the fragrant smoke rises in clouds. In the rhythm and the sweetness there is a musical quality; and like music also is the entire lack of practical utility: it is a prodigal waste of precious material. It is a pouring out of limitless love.

"When the Lord was at supper Mary brought the spikenard of great price and poured it over his feet and wiped them with her hair, and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment." Narrower spirits objected. "Whereto this waste?" But the Son of God has spoken, "Let her alone. She hath done it against my burial." Mary's anointing was a mystery of death and love and the sweet savor of sacrifice.

The offering of incense is like Mary's anointing at Bethany. It is as free and objectless as beauty. It burns and is consumed like love that lasts through death. And the arid soul still takes his stand and asks the same question: What is the good of it?

It is the offering of a sweet savor which Scripture itself tells us is the prayers of the Saints. Incense is the symbol of prayer. Like pure prayer it has in view no object of its own; it asks nothing for itself. It rises like the Gloria at the end of a psalm in adoration and thanksgiving to God for his great glory.

It is true that symbolism of this sort may lead to mere aestheticism. There are imaginations in which the fragrant clouds of incense induce a spurious religiosity; and, in such instances, when it does so, the Christian conscience does right to protest that prayer should be made in spirit and in truth. But though prayer is a plain, straight-forward business, it is not the so-much-for-so-muchness which the niggardly imagination and fleshless heart of the religious Philistine would make of it. The same spirit persists that produced the objection of Judas Iscariot. Prayer is not to be measured by its bargaining power; it is not a matter of commerce or exchange.

Minds of this order know nothing of that magnanimous prayer that seeks only to give. Prayer is a profound act of worship, that asks neither why nor wherefore. It rises like beauty, like sweetness, like love. The more there is in it of love, the more of sacrifice. And when the fire has wholly consumed the sacrifice, a sweet savour ascends. -Romano Guardini

ARCHBISHOP CARROLL'S PRAYER FOR AMERICA

This prayer was composed in 1791 By Bishop John Carroll of the Diocese of Baltimore (it didn't become an archdiocese until 1808.)

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name. We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope N., the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, N., all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation. We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty. We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability. We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal. Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our

parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Archbishop Carroll was a cousin to Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. His brother, Daniel Carroll, signed both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States. In 1784 Fr. Carroll was made Superior of Missions in the United States of North America after a recommendation by Ben Franklin to the Papal Nuncio in France. This removed the United States from under the British hierarchy & established an American hierarchy. Baltimore was the seat of the Apostolic Prefecture created. At that time it covered the entire United States of America. On 6 November 1789 he was appointed the 1st Bishop of Baltimore. On 8 April 1808 Baltimore became the 1st American Archdiocese when the dioceses of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Bardstown (now Louisville) were founded by Pope Pius VII.



Painting of Archbishop Carroll by Rembrandt Peale in 1811.